

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following headings at page 1, before the first paragraph:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field

Please add the following heading at page 1, before the second paragraph:

Description of the Related Art

Please replace the second paragraph at page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Bulk goods which largely contain particles of bulk goods or are formed exclusively from particles of bulk goods which tend to interlock are problematic in particular with respect to withdrawing them from the storage container. Bulk goods which are problematic in this way include, for example, household waste and chips for OSB plates (oriented strand boards) and other planar bulk goods. The pressure in the lower region of the storage container increases sharply with increasingly fill level, such that the individual particles of bulk goods generate very large adhesion forces between each other and ~~their mutual interlocking~~ the bulk goods can therefore only be ~~released~~ separated by a large force. The term "interlocked bulk goods" is used throughout this application to describe this phenomenon.

Please add the following heading at page 2, before the second paragraph:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the last paragraph at page 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

If the fall-pipe – or instead of this, another suitable withdrawing means which withdraws the bulk goods through the column of bulk goods – protrudes through the bulk goods as far as a central region of its free upper surface, preferably precisely as far as the ~~centre~~ center of said surface, then a further advantage is achieved, namely a short transport path for the bulk goods transverse to the free upper surface.

Please replace the first paragraph at page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In principle, this advantage also bears fruit in conjunction with conveyors other than spiked shafts, for example in conjunction with the rake type of conveyor which is in principle also suitable for carrying off the column of bulk goods. Such a rake conveyor comprises a plurality of rakes which are drawn along the free upper surface of the column of bulk goods by a traction means of the rake conveyor, in order to convey the bulk goods from a periphery of the surface towards the ~~centre~~ center of the surface, i.e. to the withdrawing means. Since the rakes do not convey the bulk goods over the entire surface but only from the periphery to at most the ~~centre~~ center of the surface, the load on the traction means is significantly reduced as compared to conveying over the entire surface. When one or more rake conveyors are arranged, a multiple-thread traction means is preferred over a merely single-thread traction means due to the force to be applied by the traction means, which despite the reduction in the length of the conveying path can still be considerable. A carrying-off means formed from spiked shafts does however have the great advantage over a rake conveyor that the bulk goods can be carried off in more precise portions. Although technically elaborate, the possibility should not however be excluded of carrying off the column of bulk goods using a combination of spiked shafts and a rake conveyor, as viewed in the conveying direction.

Please replace last paragraph at page 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to shorten the fall-pipe at a rate which corresponds to the lowering rate of the spiked shafts when the pile of bulk goods is carried off, an upper end of the fall-pipe, which forms the upper opening, can be mechanically connected to the frame which mounts the spiked shafts such that they can rotate, such that the frame slaves the upper end of the fall-pipe when the spiked shafts are lowered. It is sufficient for this purpose if the frame for example presses loosely onto the fall-pipe from above. Preferably, however, the frame is connected, such that it cannot move axially, to the end of the fall-pipe which forms the upper opening of the fall-pipe and is an upper pipe segment when the fall-pipe is formed as a telescopic pipe. In this way, the frame likewise slaves the fall-pipe during its rising movement, such that the lowering and rising movement of the spiked shafts is ~~synchronised~~ synchronized with the shortening and lengthening of the fall-pipe. When the fall-pipe is formed as a telescopic pipe, the pipe segments are connected to each other for this preferred way of extending the fall-pipe, such

that each of the axially movable pipe segments slaves its next lower adjacent segment, if a number of axially movable pipe segments are provided.

Please add the following heading at page 9, before the first full paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following heading at page 9, before the last paragraph:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace the last paragraph at page 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to withdraw bulk goods from the storage space 4, a withdrawing device is provided, consisting of spiked shafts 10 and a fall-pipe 30. The spiked shafts 10 are rotary driven and plunge into the bulk goods via their spikes, to empty the storage container 3. They carry the bulk goods off on the free upper surface of the column of bulk goods and convey them into a fall-pipe 30. The bulk goods free-falls through the fall-pipe 30 and a lower outlet of the fall-pipe 30, onto the withdrawing conveyor 7. The fall-pipe 30 protrudes vertically up from the floor 40 and protrudes centrally through the column of bulk goods, i.e. it is ~~co-axial~~ coaxial with respect to the inner surface area of the side wall of the storage container 3. It forms a vertical conveying means based on gravity, in that the bulk goods conveyed into the fall-pipe 30 by the spiked shafts 10 free-fall downwards in the fall-pipe 30. The spiked shafts 10 together form a carrying-off device which carries off the bulk goods on the surface of the column of bulk goods bit by bit and conveys them perpendicular to the fall-pipe 30 through an upper inlet opening into the fall-pipe 30. The conveying direction of the spiked shafts 10 points perpendicular to the rotational axes of the spiked shafts 10 and also perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the fall-pipe 30. The conveying direction of the spiked shafts 10 is furthermore – viewed as a whole – horizontal or at least substantially horizontal. During transverse conveying, the arrangement of spiked shafts 10 is rotary driven, i.e. pivoted, about a pivoting axis D_5 which coincides with a central longitudinal axis of the fall-pipe 30 and the storage space 4.

Please add the following new paragraph at page 16, after the last paragraph:

In the foregoing description, a preferred embodiment of the invention has been presented for the purpose of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Obvious modifications or variations are possible in light of the above teachings. The embodiment was chosen and described to provide the best illustration of the principals of the invention and its practical application, and to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the invention in various embodiments and with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated. All such modifications and variations are within the scope of the invention as determined by the appended claims when interpreted in accordance with the breadth they are fairly, legally, and equitably entitled.

Please replace the heading at page 19 with the following amended heading:

~~Claims~~

What is claimed: